

INFORMATION SECRET

COUNTRY **Austria/USSR/Czechoslovakia** **CONFIDENTIAL** DISTR. 29 June 1948 50X1-HUM
 SUBJECT **Oil Processing at Moosbierbaum** NO. OF PAGES

PLACE ACQUIRED NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)
 DATE OF INFO SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 50X1-HUM

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Crude Oil

1. The Soviets are continuing to pump their quality crude oil from Austria to Czechoslovakia through the long distance pipe line. The export of crude oil by river tanker has been completely suspended since early April 1948. From December 1947 to shortly before 26 April 1948, only two tankers carrying petroleum departed.

Refined Products

2. In the Moosbierbaum refineries, paraffin oil residues are vacuum-processed to produce lubricating oil distillates with high paraffin content. These distillates, which solidify at 50° centigrade, are obtained in four qualities. The paraffin content of three of these products is estimated at 7%, 12%, and 16% respectively. However, since the methods of analysis are known to be incorrect, it is probable that the actual paraffin content figures are 10%, 16%, and 25% respectively.
3. These distillates are exported to Czechoslovakia, where the paraffin is extracted in the process of obtaining aircraft engine oil.
4. Bitumen (petrolatum residue in the vacuum plant) is also exported to Czechoslovakia and processed for the production of vaseline.
5. The Moosbierbaum refinery resumed operations on 19 April 1948 and has been engaged exclusively in the processing of oil from Mühlberg. It has been decided not to dismantle the vacuum plant at Moosbierbaum, because this is the only plant capable of processing paraffin residues in a continuous operation. This is feasible because of the interconnection of the atmospheric and vacuum plants. Any interruption of the process would cause a considerable waste of heat, fuel, and labor. The residue, for example, would harden in the tank cars, and each car would have to be heated by steam pipes while being unloaded.

50X1-HUM

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Document No. **3**
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Class. CHANGED TO: TS

Auth: DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Date: DDA REG. 77/1263

Date: **APR 28 1976**

SECRET

Extracted by I.R.

50X1-HUM